

March 1927



The MESSENGER

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UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Services: 10.30 am, 7.30 pm. Sunday School: 10.30 am.

ST. STEPHEN'S & Milnrow Littleborough

Price: 4p

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

MARCH

- Tues. 1 7.30 pm. Ladies Guild 'Knit-in'.
Weds. 2 2 pm. - Young Mums and every Wednesday
Fri. 4 Women's World Day of Prayer.
2 pm. - St. Stephen's
7.30 pm. - Moorhouse Methodist Church
7 pm. - Youth Club and every Friday
Sun. 6 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. - Rev. A. Nash
Evening Communion
Mon. 7 6.30 pm. - Pilots and every Monday
Sun. 13 11 am. - Rev. A. Nash
6 pm. - Mr. D. Nuttall
Fri. 18 2 pm. - 'Good as New'
6.30 pm. - Jumble Sale
Sat. 19 7.30 pm. - Christian Rendezvous at
Moorhouse Methodist Church
Sun. 20 Mothering Sunday
11 am. & 6 pm. - Rev. A. Nash
Weds. 23 7.30 pm. - CHURCH MEETING
Sat. 26 From 3/5 pm. - District Missionary Rally
Sun. 27 11 am. - Mrs. M. Nash
6 pm. - Rev. A. Nash

April

- Sun. 3 Palm Sunday -
11 am. & 6 pm. - Rev. A. Nash
Evening Communion

NB. - A whist Drive is held each Wednesday at
7.30 pm.

FAMILY CHURCH READERS

- Mar. 6 Mrs. A. Baines - Luke 5; 27-32
" 13 Mr. A. Eastwood - Luke 13; 10-21
" 20 Miss M. Wood - Luke 4; 16-30
" 27 Mrs. C. Rothwell - Luke 4; 1-13
April 3 Mrs. B. Clarence - Matt. 21; 1-11

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY.

MARCH

- Tues. 1st - 7.30 pm. - Branded Seconds Sale
(Proceeds in aid of Junior Church)
- Weds. 2nd - 6.45 pm. - Pilots - and every Wednesday
- Fri. 4th - 7.30 pm. - United Service at Smallbridge
Methodist Church in connection with
the Women's World Day of Prayer
- Sun. 6th - 10-30 am. - Mr. J. Lord
- Weds. 9th - 7.45 pm. - Choir Practice for
Ladies Day
- Sun. 13th - Ladies Day
10-30 am. - Mrs. M. Jeffrey
3 pm. - Mrs. B. Evans
- Tues. 15th - 7.30 pm. - Ladies Guild - A.G.M.
- Sun. 20th - 10-30 am. - Mrs. M. Nash - Mothering
Sunday
- Thurs. 24th - 7.30 pm. - Men's Fellowship -
Speaker - Coun. Edwards
- Sat. 26th - 3/5 pm. - District Missionary Rally
at St. Stephen's, Milnrow
- Sun. 27th - 10-30 am. - Rev. A. Nash
Family Communion
- Mon. 28th - 7.30 pm. - Church Meeting

April

- Sun. 3rd - 10-30 am. - Mr. J. Lord

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ORGANIST/PIANIST

- March 6th - Mrs. M. Hill
- " 13th - Mr. A. Clegg - am & pm.
- " 20th - Mrs. E. Cockcroft
- " 27th - Miss L. Merrick

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Collections for January -

- 2nd - £21.46
- 9th - £20-28
- 16th - £21.14
- 23rd - £21.52
- 30th - £16.93

From The Manse ...

March, 1977.

My Dear Friends,

Life is a tremendous mixture of circumstances and events, and it seldom seems to run along smoothly for long. So much so that some folk become quite frustrated and despondent about it, and wonder what it's all about anyway.

Walking down a cobbled lane between back garden walls one day in early summer, I noticed flowers growing up through the iron grating of a sink. Dead leaves, soil and seed had been washed down and had lodged on a ridge underneath the grating. It was hardly the most encouraging spot, and yet the miracle of life within the seed burst forth as roots, stems, leaves, and finally golden flowers.

By no means was this clump of flowers ideally situated, but even so, the plants did the only thing a plant does and be true to nature. So the flowers continued to grow, to bloom, and to live in fulfilment of their destiny as something of beauty.

When the going gets rough, I like to think about those bright yellow blossoms in the drain. I find encouragement in the knowledge that something within the seed made way for life to develop through it into the form it was meant to be. So with us who are Christ's people. Amid the debris and the difficulties surrounding us, God calls us to live, grow and fulfil His divine purpose. Like the life that is within the seed, He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us overcome all things as we seek to live as unto Him.

Regardless of surroundings or circumstances, be they ever so difficult, there are unlimited resources available to those who live in the Spirit, and who aspire to let their life express God's will. Those seedlings striving to grow in the drain must have received much battering as water from many a rainstorm poured down upon them, yet they grew and produced beauty, as was their appointed purpose. If our own life is God-centred and God-directed, be sure that He will bring us also to the fulness of the stature of Christ, which is every Christian's true destiny.

May God bless you all, and cause you to grow in
grace and knowledge of Him.

Your sincere friend,
ALFRED NASH.

Thought for the month:

In Christian growth we can use every
circumstance to advantage.

OBITUARY

- Mr. Reuben Wood, aged 93,
of Meadow View - died January 27th.
Mr. Albert Henry Taylor, aged 87,
of Brooklands - died February 1st.
Mrs. Clarice Hannah Fielden, aged 81,
of 10 Deanhead, Summit - died February 11th.
Mr. William Fielding,
of 2 Waithlands Road, Rochdale - died February 12th.

Funeral Services at Rochdale Crematorium were
conducted by Rev. A. Nash.

Our thoughts and prayers are with relatives
and friends at this time.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will not fear, for
THOU art with me".

----- Only £50 to go -----

The Decorating Fund needs just £50 to reach
our target of £250 -----

-- we need your support on Tuesday,
March 1st -- 'Knit-in' -- all proceeds
go to meet our target ----

-- See you then Knitters and
Sponsors --- Tuesday 1st at 7.30 pm.

MILNROW NEWS

Ordination of ELDERS

New Elders were ordained at St. Stephens, Milnrow, on Sunday February 6th, and at Littleborough on Sunday February 13th. These were, at Milnrow, Mrs. Margaret Holden, and Mr. Ian Royle, and at Littleborough, Mrs. Peggy Lightfoot, and Mr. Robert Mullen.

Large congregations were present at both churches to witness the ordinations and to pledge their support to the new Elders as they seek to serve the cause of Christ in their respective Churches.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY, MARCH 4th

UNITED SERVICES AS FOLLOWS:-

- 2 p.m. at St. Stephens U.R.C.
(Creche provided for the children)
- 7.30 p.m. at Moorhouse Methodist Church -
Speaker Mrs. Dorothy Grisdale

ALL LADIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON THIS OCCASION - The Service has been compiled by ladies of Eastern Germany, and the theme is ---

"LOVE IN ACTION"

Our Grateful Thanks to:-

Mrs. Charlotte Wilkinson for the gift of a Table Runner for the Church. This has been given in memory of Miss Annie Clegg.
Thanks also to Mrs. Jennifer Jackson who so readily made the runner.

YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO THE
DISTRICT MISSIONARY RALLY

to be held at ST. STEPHEN'S on SATURDAY
26th March - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Items will be presented by a number of the Churches of our District, including Providence, Middleton, Alkrington, Bamford, Milton, Hallfold, and Whitworth.

Also taking part are members of the Littleborough and St. Stephen's Pilot Companies.

MISS GWYNETH THOMAS S.R.N., S.C.M., will speak to us of her work in MBERESHI and KITWE, ZAMBIA.

We look forward to a time of happy fellowship
- make sure you do not miss it -

(Programmes for this event are on sale from Mrs. A. Baines at St. Stephens and Mrs. D. Leach at Littleborough).

YOUNG MUMS DISCUSS --

At a recent meeting of the "Young Mums" we held a discussion regarding how strict we should be with our children. Eventually we came to the point of reviewing ourselves - our own behaviour in the light of the Ten Commandments. It was realised afresh that what standards we set ourselves will indeed influence our homes and our children.

As a refresher for us all - why not read for yourselves those Commandments given by God to Moses so many years ago - yet which, if taken as a guide for 1977, will help us to keep on the "straight and narrow".

They are to be found in the second book of the Bible - EXODUS CHAPTER 20.

NEWS FROM THE PILOTS

On Wednesday night, 16th February, the Sunday School roof was in danger of lifting when the regional heat of the Pilot competitions was held at St. Stephens. About 70 children and 40 adults gathered to watch a thrilling competition, where the lead changed with each round.

Littleborough, Heaton Moor and St. Stephens fought a great battle, St. Stephens were eventually the victors. We would like to heartily thank our supporters, and invite them to come again to the next round.

Our special thanks to the parents and friends of Littleborough Pilots who acted as chauffeurs for the team and their supporters.

LADIES GUILD

At the February meeting members learned a little about the history of stamps and were shown numerous examples from Mr. Simpson's collection.

Our first March meeting will be the "KNIT-IN" so please come along and support the ladies (and gentlemen?), even if you cannot knit yourself.

Sponsors are needed if we are to raise all the necessary money (which is for the Decorating Fund).

Our Speaker at the April meeting will be our own Minister.

LADIES WEEKEND 19/20th February

The Ladies Weekend was very successful. All enjoyed the Saturday Social. The services on Sunday were supported by all the Church. Our thanks to ALL who have helped to make the weekend so enjoyable.

"Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth thrown in. Aim at Earth and you get neither".

C. S. Lewis - "Mere Christianity".

The Ladies Guild are organising a

'GOOD AS NEW' SALE at 2 p.m.

'JUMBLE SALE' at 6.30 p.m.

on FRIDAY, MARCH 18th.

ADMISSION 3p.

- Come and get all the bargains -

BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

Littleborough:

Martin Greenwood 5th, Vicki Gibson 7th, Gillian Butterworth 8th, Glen McCormack 12th, Angela Mills 17th, Jeanette Back 28th.

Milnrow:

Mark Hughes 7th, Penelope Jones 11th, Gary Radcliffe 16th, Jonathan Royle 19th, Soraya Khan 25th, Lisa Wilson 26th, Paul Pinder 27th, Alison Rhodes 30th.

Prayer is the key to the morning and
the bolt to the evening.

ANON

CHRISTIAN RENDEZVOUS

This month -

SATURDAY - MARCH 19th - 7.30 p.m. - at

MOORHOUSE METHODIST CHURCH

Speaker - Rev. Trevor Knight from
the National Young Life Campaign

Again a time of fellowship in a happy
atmosphere is promised. Come and share
in this Christian "get-together".

LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS

The Ladies Guild wish to thank everyone who contributed to the "Christmas Stocking" for the Blind Association. The amount sent to the Blind was £4.50.

Something you must not miss --

SUNDAY MARCH 13th.

Special Services at:-

10.30 a.m. - Speaker Mrs. M. Jeffrey

3 p.m. - Speaker Mrs. B. Evans

Special items by the Ladies

Come and bring as many others as you can.

By the way - this is NOT for ladies only - men and children are also invited - so see what you can do.

LADIES DAY 13th March - ANNIVERSARY 24th April

Any person requiring transport to these services please contact Mr. Don Harrison (Littleborough 79501) as soon as possible.

Mrs. E. Dunwell is our new Welfare Secretary, and would like to know the name of any members and people connected with the Church when they reach 70 years of age.

The Coupons for the Autumn Fair should be available during March - Mrs. E. Crossley would like the names of anyone willing to help her sell these coupons.

However hard and long and drear

Your road seems day by day,
Though you with breaking heart must plod

That rough and lonely way,
You'll find each cruel, anxious mile
Is easier if somehow you smile

If you do not go the Church
If you have lost the Habit
If you once went to Sunday School
If you went before you were married,
If you are newcomers to the District,
If you would be glad to make friends,
If you have never given it a thought at all -
Then this is a friendly invitation to you -

WE INVITE YOU

Because, Jesus Christ is Relevant to every part
of your life.

Someday you will wish you had His Resources.

Everyday you need His forgiveness.

HE is the Answer to all your problems.

HE is the fulfilment of all your joys.

The sanctity of Human ties rests on His Message.

The best of Human Planning breaks down without HIM.

JESUS is alive now, and everyday offers you a fresh
start.

We urge you to think about it -

COME NOW !!!

You will be welcome

(J. Lord)

Men's Fellowship

Many ladies accepted the invitation to our
fellowship, when Miss L. Priestley was the speaker.
Her talk was illustrated with coloured slides, among
them many of local places and people. Mr. J. Lord
proposed the vote of thanks and the night was
enjoyed by all. This month we meet on Thursday 24th.

United Service for the Women's World Day of
Prayer - Friday, March 4th - will be held at
Smallbridge Methodist Church at 7.30 p.m. This
is open for any lady to attend.

Mrs. K. Mills has passed on the following little verse, in the hope that someone else may benefit from it:-

However grim life is for you,
However hard the way,
However many thankless chores
Confront you every day.
Be sure of this, in spite of ALL
The troubles you deplore,
There's always something,
Everyday,
To thank the Good Lord for.

Growing Together in Christ

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you in all its richness. Instruct and admonish each other with the utmost wisdom. Sing thankfully in your hearts to God, with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs".

Col.13. 16.

So St. Paul recommends the Colossians to help one another to grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ. In most of our services we depend on the Minister or the Leader to bring all the ideas and thoughts which are to make up our worship. It has been suggested that for the evening Anniversary Service on Sunday, 24th April, contributions from members of the Congregation might be included. Perhaps you have a favourite Bible reading, or a piece from another book which you feel brings you nearer to Jesus Christ. Or perhaps there is a poem or a piece of music - music can often convey the wonder and might of God far better than words - or even a particular picture which could be displayed, that you would like to share with your fellow worshippers, favourite prayers could also be included.

If you have a favourite of any kind that you would consider suitable for inclusion in that service, please could you let Mrs. Vincent have the relevant details as soon as possible. It would be much appreciated if you would like to read your own contribution, but if you would prefer another reader

to be found that could also be arranged.

It is also intended that the hymns be chosen by the Congregation, so please could you let me have the numbers of any favourite hymns by mid-March, to give us time to construct our sacred "Top Five". Please take a little time to consider this proposal, and then a little more to search out those favourite few words, bars of music, or pictures.

Our worship will be the richer for our having each of us brought more loving care into it. Should it be found impossible to use all items offered, be sure they will be used at a later date.

Hilary Vincent.

The February Ladies Guild was a Birthday Supper, There was a large attendance of our members and after the business part of the meeting was completed the ladies then donned their 'Thinking Caps' for the quiz set by Mrs. Nash. The answers given showed that the majority know the Bible and Hymn Book, even if some of the replies were rather humorous - we THINK the score was a draw!! A lovely Birthday Supper was provided by our birthday ladies.

Our next meeting will be on March 15th, and will be the Annual General Meeting.

This I Know

I know not what this day may bring, of pleasure or of pain. I know not where I shall be led before the sun again sinks into the western sky - but this I surely know - I shall not walk alone, no matter where I'm called to go.

As I look out through the windows of another day I know not what I shall encounter as I go my way. But this I know for certain, that whatever may betide, He, my Lord and Saviour, will be there to guard and guide.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH .

DOOR STEWARDS

March 6	Mr. J. Hill	Mr. E. Holt
" 13	am. Mrs. Marvelley	Miss J. Leach
	pm. Mrs. Crossley	Mrs. Cryer
" 20	Mr. D. Harrison	Miss D. Silcock
" 27	Mrs. A. Stott	Mrs. E. Dunwell
Apr. 3	Mrs. P. Lightfoot	Mr. R. Mullen

COMMUNION ELDERS.

March 27	am.	Mr. F. Simpson	Mr. R. Mullen
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FLOWERS.

March 6	Mrs. Walker
" 13	Mrs. Hill
" 20	Mrs. Crossley - Mrs. Williams
" 27	Mrs. E. Cockcroft.
Apr. 3	Mrs. Wade

COFFEE ROTA

March 6	Mrs. W. Spinks	Mrs. J. Hobbs
" 13	Mrs. S. Moss	Mrs. A. Reynolds
" 20	Mrs. L. Mitchell	Mrs. B. Macormack
" 27	Miss W. Law	Mrs. I. Simpson
Apr. 3	Mrs. J. Law	Mrs. P. Mullen

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

March 6	Mrs. H. Vincent	- Luke 5: 27-32
" 13	Mrs. P. Lightfoot	- Luke 13: 10-21
" 20	Mr. R. Mullen	- Luke 4: 16-30
" 27	Mr. D. Harrison	- Luke 4: 1-13
Apr. 3	Mrs. J. Law	- Matt. 21: 1-11

Please give items for next month's 'Messenger' to Mrs. P. Mullen by the 17th. Thank you.

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

Family Church Door Stewards

March 6	Mr. J. Harrison	Mr. H. Ogden
" 13	Mrs. A. Collins	Mrs. I. Collins
" 20	Mrs. J. Calow, Ian, Alan, Graham	
" 27	Mr. A. Rae	Mr. G. Buckley
Apr. 3	Mrs. F. Butterworth	Mr. H. Mellor

ELDERS ROTA

Evening door Stewards	Duty Elder	Evening Organist
Mar. 6 Mr. A. Busill	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. D. Logan
" 13 Mr. H. Whitehead	Mr. A. Busill	Mrs. C. Hey
" 20 Mr. I. Royle	Mrs. M. Holden	Mrs. E. Starkie
" 27 Mrs. M. Holden	Mr. A. Sharples	Mrs. Bradbury
Apr. 3 Mr. J. Wild	Mrs. Howarth	Mr. D. Logan

If you are unable to fulfil a duty would you be good enough to find a suitable substitute. Thanks!

ELDERS to serve COMMUNION

Mar. 6.	Mrs. Howarth	Mr. H. Whitehead
Apr. 3.	Mr. B. Clough	Mr. A. Sharples
" 7.	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. A. Busill

COFFEE ROTA

Mar. 6	Mrs. E. Smith	Mrs. H. Buckley
" 13	Mrs. E. Busill	Miss I. Tither
" 20	Mrs. N. Whitehead	Mrs. Greenhalgh
" 27	Mrs. F. Holland	Mrs. J. Jackson
Apr. 3.	Mrs. J. Duffy	Mrs. F. Butterworth

FLOWERS

Mar. 6	Miss M. Wood
" 13	Mrs. A. Tither Mrs. J. Harrison
" 20	~~Mrs. Hemmings~~ Mrs. A. Baines
" 27	Miss I. Tither

MINISTER:

Rev A V J NASH

The Manse

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